the advantage to be achieved. The revolves in a large measure our continu-industrial progress and the extension enmorries triumples, I am satisfie the indemest of the country favors t of aid to our merebant marine,w. u-bottle our sea-currying capacity for colocis or agriculture and mainta are which, with the increase of our navy ton ruo wit engage but show even mean on interests to every nor; of the world

The Subject of Trusts.

Combinations of capital organized in tracts to control the conditions of true arrang our citizens, to stiffe competitie of products used and consumed by people are healt provoking public dision, and should early claim the attentiof the Congress.

The industrial commission, created by the act of the Congress of June 18, 1898, ha been engaged in extended hearings upon the disputed questions involved in the sulof combinations in restraint of tradempetition. They have not yet completed their investigation of this subject and the concluders and recommendation at which they may arrive are under

The subject is one giving rise to many divergent views as to the nature and variely or cause and extent of the inquirimemerans cutty-rises and establishment which previously to the formation of the combination were carried on sentrately.

It is missespilly conceiled that combitions which sugress or control the marke of any particular kind of merchandise or ly navestary to the general community by supercosing natural and ordicompetition, whereby prices are unenhanced to the general consumer, are objections not only to the common law but also to the public welfare. There must be a ramedy for the evils involved in such organizations. If the present law can be extended more certainly to control or check these monopoles or trusts, it should be done without delay. Whatever power the Congress possesses over this most important subject should be promptly ascertained and

President Harrison in his Annual Mes sage of December 3, 1889, says:

"Earnest attention should be given by Congress to a consideration of the cuestion how far the restraint of those combigations of capital commonly call d 'trusts' is matter of Federal jurisdiction. When organized as they often are, to crush out all healthy competition and to monopolize the production or sale of an they are dangerous conspiracies agains the public good, and should be made the subject of prohibitory and even penal legis-

The Act of July, 1890.

An act to protect trade and commercial against unlawful restraints and monopolies was passed by Congress on the 24 of July The provisions of this statute are comprehensive and stringent. It declares every contract or combination, in the form of a trust or otherwise, or conspiracy in the restraint of trade or commerce among he several States or with foreign nations, to be unlawful. It denominates as a crimtract or engages in any such combination or conspiracy, and provides a punishmen by fine or imprisonment. It invests the everal circuit courts of the United States with jurisdiction to prevent and restrain violations of the act, and makes it the duly of the several United States district atterneys, under the direction of the Attorney-General, to institute proceedings in equity to prevent and restrain such violations. It further confers upon any person who simil be injured in his business of property by any other person or corporation by reason of anything forbidden or declared to be unlawful by the act the power to sue therefor in any circuit court of the United States without respect to the amount in controversy, and to recover thre fold the damages by him sustained and the costs of the suit, including reason able attorney fees. It will be perceived that the act is aimed at every kind of combination in the nature of a trust or monopoly in restraint of interstate or international commerce.

The prosecution by the United States of offenses under the act of 1800 has been frequently resorted to in the Federal courts, and notable efforts in the restraint of interstate commerce, such as the Trans-Missouri Freight Association and the Joint Traffic Association, have been successfully opposed and suppressed.

President Cleveland in his Annual Message of December 7, 1896-more than six years subsequent to the enactment of this aw-after stating the evils of these trust ombinations, says:

Though Congress has attempted to deal with this matter by legislation, the laws passed for that purpose thus far have proved ineffective, not because of any lack of disposition or attempt to enforce them, but simply because the laws themselves as interpreted by the courts do not reach the difficulty. If the insufficiencies of existing laws can be remedled by further legislation, it should be done. The fact must be recognized, however, that all Federal leg slation on this subject may fall short of its purpose because of inherent obstacles, and also because of the complex character of our governmental system, which, while making the Federal authority supreme within its sphere, has carefully limited that sphere by metes and bounds which canno be transgressed. The decision of our highest court on this precise question renders it quite doubtful whether the evils of trusts and monopolies can be adequately treated through Federal action, unless they seek directly and purposely to include in their bjec's transportation or intercourse between States or between the United States

and foreign countries. "It does not follow, however, that this is the limit of the remedy that may be applied. Even though it may be found that Federal authority is not broad enough to fully reach the case, there can be no doubt of the power of the several States to aceffectively in the premises, and there should be no reason to doubt their willingness to judiciously exercise such power."

State Legislation Has Failed.

The State legislation to which Presiden Cleveland looked for relief from the evils of trusts has failed to accomplish fully that object. This is probably due to a great extent to the fact that different States take different views as to the proper way to "Iscriminate between evil and injurious combinations and those associations which are beneficial and necessary to the business prosperity of the country. The great diversity of treatment in different States arising from this cause and the intimate relations of all parts of the country to each other without regarding State lines in the conduct of business have made the enforcement of State laws difficult,

It is opporent that uniformity of legisla-

age mereliant vessels essential for that such uniformity founded in a wise and just discrimination between what is injurious and what is useful and necessary that means may be found for the Congress within the limitations of its constitutional power so to supplement an effective code of State legislation as to make a complete systone of laws throughout the United States cheguate to compel a general observance of the substary rules to which I have referred. The whole question is so important and ar-reaching that I am sure no part of it will be lightly considered, but every phase of it will have the studied deliberation of the Congress resulting in wise and ju-

Foreign Relations.

A review of our relations with foreign tates is presented with such recommendations as are documed concopriate.

The long-pending boundary dispute be were the Argentine Republic and Chile was settled in March last by the award of an arbitral commission, on which the United States minister at Buenos Ayres erved as umpere.

Progress has been made toward-the conusion of a convention of extradition with the Argentine Republic. Having been adised and consented to by the United States Senate and ratified by Argentina, it only waits the adjustment of some slight changes in the text before exchange.

In my last Annual Message I adverted to the claim of the Austro-Hungarian Goverament for indemnity for the killing of ertain Austrian and Hungarian subjects by the authorities of the State of Pennsylcanta, at Lastimer, while suppressing an unhaveful turnult of miners, September 10, 1897 in view of the verdict of acquittal endered by the court before which the berlif and his deputies were tried for mur-, and following the established dectrine that the tlovernment may not be held acannuable for injuries suffered by individals at the bands of the public authorities hite acting in the line of duty in supessing discurbance of the public peace, his Government, after due consideration of the claim a frame-t by the Austro-Hungarian Government, was constrained to decline liability to indennify the sufferers. It is gratifying to be able to aunounce that the Relgian Government has mitigated he restrictions on the importation of cattic from the United States, to which I referred in my last Annual Message.

Having been invited by Belgium to participate in a congress, held at Brussels, to revise the provisions of the general act of July 2 1800, for the repression of the African slave trade, to which the United States was a signalory party, this Government preferred not to be represented by a plenipotentiary, but reserved the right of were made, those especially concerning this country being in the line of the increased restriction of the deleterious trade in spirituous liquors with the native tribes, which this Government has from the outset adsocated. The amended general act will be idvice and consent.

Early in the year the peace of Bolivia was disturbed by a successful insurrection. The United States minister remained at his that quarter, and using besides his good offices for the protection of the interests of British subjects in the absence of their national representative. On the establish ment of the new Government our minister was directed to enter into relations there

General Pando was elected President of Bolivia on October 22d.

Our representative has been instructed to se all permissible friendly endeavors to amend its marriage laws so as to give legal status to the non-Catholic and civil marriages of aliens within its jurisdiction, and strong hopes are entertained that the Bulivian law in this regard will be brought, as was that of Peru several years ago, into harmony with the general practice of mod-

Extradition With Brazil.

A convention of extradition with Brazil signed May 14, 1897, has been ratified by the Brazilian Legislature.

During the past summer two national hips of the United States have visited Brazilian ports on a friendly mission and been cordially received. The voyage of the Wilmington up the Amazon River gave rise to a passing misunderstanding, owing confusion in obtaining permission to visit the interior and make surveys in the general interest of navigation, but the incident found a ready adjustment in harmony with the close relations of amity which this Government has always solulously sought to cultivate with the commonwealths of the Western Continent.

The claim growing out of the seizure of the American-owned newspaper The Panama Star and Herald by the authorities of Colombia has been settled, after a controversy of several years, by an agreement issessing at \$30,000 the indemnity to be paid by the Colombian Government, in

three installments of \$10,000 each. The good will of Colombia toward our ountry has been testified anew by the cordial extension of facilities to the Nicaraguan Canal Commission in their approaching investigation of the Panama Canal and ther projected routes across the Isthmus

of Darien. Toward the end of October an insurreconary disturbance developed in the Coombian Republic. This movement has thus far not attained any decisive result end is still in progress.

Inscussion of the questions raised by the iction of Denmark in Imposing restrictions on the importation of American meats has continued without substantial result in our favor.

The neighboring island Republic of Santo Domingo has lately been the scene of revolution, following a long period of tranquillity. It began with the killing of President Heureaux in July last, and culminated in the relinquishment by the succeeding vice president of the reins of government to the insurgents. The first act of the provisiona government was the calling of a presilential and constituent election. Juan Isidro Jimenez, having been elected President, was inaugurated on the 14th of November. Relations have been entered into with the newly established Government.

The experimental association of Nicaragua, Honduras, and Salvador, under the title of the Greater Republic of Central America, when apparently on the threshold of a complete federal organization by the adoption of a constitution and the forma tion of a national legislature, was disupted in the last days of November, 1898, by the withdrawal of Salvador. Thereupon Nicaragua and Honduras abandoned the joint compact, each resuming its former in lependent soversignty. This was followed by the reception of Minister Merry by the Republics of Nicaragua and Salvador, while Minister Hunter in turn presented his cre dentials to the Government of Honduras thus reverting to the old distribution of the liplomatic agencies of the United States in Central America for which our existing statutes provide. A Nicaraguan envoy has been accredited to the United States.

General Reyes, broke out at Bluefields in February last, and for a time exercised actual control in the Mosquito Territory The Detroit was promptly sent thither for he protection of American interests. After a few weeks the Reyes government renounced the conflict, giving place to the restored supremacy of Nicaragua. During the interregnum certain public dues accruing under Nicaraguan law were collected from American merchants by the authorities for the time being in effective admin-

An insurrectionary movement, under

and in less hard to obtain from for- is much to be desired. It is to be hoped ment regaining power a second payment of fully directed endeavor, unfaltering energy, these dues was demanded. Controversy and consummate performance may be read arose touching the validity of the original payment of the debt to the de facto regent positives perations may be obtained and of the territory. An arrangement was effected in April last by the United States minister and the foreign secretary of Nicaragua whereby the amounts of the duplicate payments were deposited with the British consul pending an adjustment of the matter by direct agreement between the Governments of the United States and the task of our Commission. Nicaragua. The controversy is still unset-

The Nicaragua Canal.

The contract of the Maritime Canal Company of Nicaragua was declared forfeited by the Nicaraguan Government on the 10th of October, on the ground of nonfulfillment within the ten years' term stipulated in the contract. The Maritime Canal Company has lodged a protest against this action. alleging rights in the premises which appear worthy of consideration. This Government expects that Nicaragua will afford the protestants a full and fair hearing upon the merits of the case.

The Nicaragua Canal Commission, which had been engaged upon the work of examination and survey for a ship-canal route across Nicaragua, having completed its labors and made its report, was dissolved or May 31, and on June 10 a new commission, known as the Isthmian Canal Commission. was organized under the terms of the act approved March 3, 1809, for the purpose of examining the American Isthmus with a view to determining the most practicable and feasible route for a ship canal across that Isthmus, with its probable cost, and other essential details.

This Commission, under the presidency of Rear-Admiral John G. Walker, U. S. N. (retired), entered promptly upon the work intrusted to it, and is now carrying on examinations in Nicaragua along the route of the Panama Canal, and in Darien from the Atlantic, in the neighborhood of the Atrate River, to the Bay of Panama, on the Pacific side. Good progress has been made but under the law a comprehensive and complete investigation is called for, which will require much labor and considerable time for its accomplishment. The work will be prosecuted as expeditiously as possible and a report made at the earliest practicable date.

The great importance of this work can not be too often or too strongly pressed upon the attention of the Congress. In my Message of a year ago I expressed my views of the necessity of a canal which would link the two great oceans, to which I again invite your consideration. The reasons then presented for early action are v.n stronger now.

A pleasing incident in the relations of this Government with that of Chile occurred in he generous assistance given to the war ship Newark when in distress in Chilean waters. Not alone in this way has the friendly disposition of Chile found expression. That country has acceded to the con vention for the establishment of the Bureau of the American Republies, in which organization every independent State of the

The exchange of ratifications of a con vention for the revival of the United States and Chi can Cialms Commission and for the adjudication of claims heretofore presented but not determined during the life of the previous Commission has been delayed by reason of the necessity for fresh action by the Chilean Senate upon the amendments attached to the ratification of the treaty by he United States Senate. This formality is on to be accomplished.

American Citizens in China.

In view of disturbances in the populous provinces of northern China, where are many of our citizens, and of the imminence of disorder near the capital and toward the seaboard, a guard of marines was landed from the Boston and stationed during the iast winter in the legation compound at Peking. With the restoration of order this protection was withdrawn.

The interests of our citizens in that vast Empire have not been neglected during the past year. Adequate protection has been cured for our missionaries and some inluries to their property have been redressed

American capital has sought and found various opportunities of competing to carry out the internal improvements which the Imperial Government is wisely encouraging, and to develop the natural resources of the Empire. Our trade with China has continued to grow, and our commercial rights under existing treaties have_beer everywhere maintained during the past year, as they will be in the future,

The extension of the area open to intercational foreign settlement at Shanghai and the opening of the ports of Nanking, Tsing-tao (Kiao chao), and Ta-lien-wan to foreign trade and settlement will doubtless afford American enterprise additional facilities and new fields, of which it will not be slow to take advantage.

In my Message to Congress of December 5, 1898, I urged that the recommendation which had been made to the Speaker of th House of Representatives by the Secretary of the Treasury on the 14th of June, 1868, for an appropriation for a commission to study the commercial and industrial conditions in the Chinese Empire and report as to the opportunities for, and obstacles to, the enlargement of markets in China for the raw products and manufactures of the United States, should receive at your hands the consideration which its importance and timeliness merited, but the Congress failed to take action.

I now renew this recommendation, as the importance of the subject has steadily grown since it was first submitted to you, and no time should be lost in studying for ourselves the resources of this great field for American trade and enterprise.

Paris Exposition.

The death of President Faure in February ast called forth those sincere expressions of sympathy which befit the relations of (wo Republies as closely allied by unbroken historic ties as are the United States and

Preparations for the representation of the neustries, arts, and products of the United States at the World's Exposition to be held in Faris next year continue on an elaborate and comprehensive scale, thanks to the generous appropriation provided by Congress and to the friendly interest the French Government has shown in furthering a typcal exhibit of American progress.

There has been allotted to the United States a considerable addition of space, which, while placing our country in the first rank among exhibitors, does not suffice to meet the increasingly urgent demands of our manufacturers. The efforts of the Commissioner-General are ably directed toward a strictly representative display of all that most characteristically marks American achievement in the inventive arts, and most adequately shows the excellence of our ratural productions.

In this age of keen rivalry among nations for mastery in commerce, the doctrine of evolution and the rule of the survival of the fittest must be as inexorable in their operation as they are positive in the results they bring about. The place won in the struggle by an industrial people can only be held by unrelaxed endeavor and constant advance in achievement. The present extraordinary impetus in every line of American exportation and the astounding increase in the volume and value of our share in the world's markets may not be attributed to accidental conditions.

The reasons are not far to seek. They lie deep in our national character and find expression year by year in every branch of handicraft, in every new device whereby the materials we so abundantly produce are subdued to the artisan's will and made to yield the largest, most practical, and most beneficial return. The American exhibit at Paris should, and I am confident will. tion upon this subject in the several states | istrative control. Upon the titular govern- be an open volume, whose lessons of skill- thorities that the personal and property

by all on every page, thus spreading abroad a clearer knowledge of the worth of our productions and the justice of our claim to an important place in the marts of the world. To accomplish this by judicious selection, by recognition of paramount merit in whatever walk of trade or manufacture it may appear, and by orderly classification and attractive installation is

The United States Government building is approaching completion, and no effort will be spared to make it worthy, in beauty of architectural plan and in completeness of display, to represent our nation. It has been suggested that a permanent building of similar or appropriate design be erected on a convenient site, already given by the municipality, near the Exposition grounds, to serve in commemoration of the part taken by this country in this great enterprise, as an American National Institute, for our countrymen resorting to Paris for

study. I am informed by our Commissioner General that we shall have in the American sections at Paris over 7,000 exhibitors, from every State in our country, a number ten times as great as those which were represented at Vienna in 1873, six times as many as those in Paris in 1878, and four times as many as those who exhibited in Paris in 1889. This statement does not include the exhibits from either Cuba, Porto Rico, or Hawaii, for which arrangements have been made.

A number of important international congresses on special topics affecting public interests are proposed to be held in Paris next summer in connection with the exposition. Effort will be made to have the several technical branches of our administration efficiently represented at those conferences, each in its special line, and to procure the largest possible concourse of State representatives, particularly at Congresses of Public Charity and of Medi-

Cordial Relations With Germany.

Our relations with Germany continue to be most cordial. The increasing intimacy of direct association has been marked during the year by the granting permission in April for the landing on our shores of a cable from Borkum Emden, on the North Sea, by way of the Azores, and also by the conclusion on September 2d of a Parcels Post Convention with the German Empire. In all that promises closer relations of intercourse and commerce and a better understanding between two races having so many traits in common, Germany can be assured of the most cordial co-operation of this government and people. We may be rivals in many material paths, but our rivalry should be generous and open, ever aiming toward the attainment of larger results and the mutually beneficial advancement of each in the line of its especial adaptabilities.

The several governments of the Empire seem reluctant to admit the natural excellence of our food productions and to accepthe evidence we constantly tender of the care with which their purity is guarded by rigid inspection from the farm, through the laughter-house and the packing establishments, to the port of shipment. Our sysem of control over exported food staple; invites examinations from any quarter and challenges respect by its efficient thorough-

It is to be hoped that in time the two Governments will act in common accord toward the realization of their common purpose to safeguard the public health and to insure the purity and wholesomeness of all food products imported by either country from the other. Were the Congress to authorize an invitation to Germany, in connection with the pending reciprocity negotiations, for the constitution of a joint commission of scientific experts and practical men of affairs to conduct a searching investigation of food production and exportation in both countries and report to their respective legislatures for the adoption of such remedial measures as they might recthe way might be

pened for the desirable result indicated. Efforts to obtain for American life insurance companies a full hearing as to their business operations in Prussia have, after several years of patient representation, happily succeeded, and one of the most important American companies has been granted a concession to continue business in that Kingdom.

I am also glad to announce that the German insurance companies have been readmitted by the superintendent of insurance to do business in the State of New York.

Subsequent to the exchange of our peace treaty with Spain Germany acquired the Caroline Islands by purchase, paying therefor \$5,000,000. Assurances have been received from the German Government that the rights of American missionaries and traders there will be considerately observed.

The Alaskan Boundary.

In my last Annual Message I referred to the pending negotiations with Great Britain in respect to the Dominion of Canada. By means of an executive agreement a Joint High Commission had been created for the purpose of adjusting all unsettled questions between the United States and Canada, embracing tweive subjects, among which were the questions of the fur seals. the fisheries of the coast and contiguous inland waters, the Alaskan boundary, the transit of merchandise in bond, the alien labor laws, mining rights, reciprocity in trade, revision of the agreement respecting naval vessels in the Great Lakes, a more complete marking of parts of the boundary, provision for the conveyance of criminals, and for wrecking and salvage.

Much progress had been made by the Commission toward the adjustment of many of these questions, when it became apparent that an irreconcilable difference of views was entertained respecting the delimitation of the Alaskan boundary. In the failure of an agreement as to the meaning of articles 3 and 4 of the treaty of 1825 between Russia and Great Britain, which defined the boundary between Alaska and Canada, the American commissioners proposed that the subject of the boundary be laid aside and that the remaining questions of difference be proceeded with, some of which were so far advanced as to assure the probability of a settlement. This being declined by the British Commissioners, an adjournment was taken until the boundary should be adjusted by the two Governments. The subject has been receiving the careful attention which its importance demands, with the result that a modus vivendi for provisional demarcations in the region about the head of Lynn Canal has been agreed upon; and it is hoped that the negotiations now in progress between the two governments will end in an agreement for the establishment and delimitation of a permanent boundary.

Apart from these questions growing out our relationship with our northern neighbor, the most friendly disposition and ready agreement have marked the discussion of numerous matters arising in the vast and intimate intercourse of the United States with Great Britain.

This Government has maintained an attitude of neutrality in the unfortunate contest between Great Britain and the Boer States of Africa. We have remained faithful to the precept of avoiding entangling alliances as to affairs not of our direct concern. Had circumstances suggested that the parties to the quarrel would have welcomed any kindly expression of the hope of the American people that war might be averted, good offices would have been gladly tendered. The United States representative at Pretoria was early instructed to see that all neutral American interests be respected by the combatants. This has been an easy task in view of the positive declarations of both British and Boer au-

rights of our citizens should be observed. Upon the withdrawal of the British agent from Pretoria the United States consul was authorized, upon the request of the British Government and with the assent of the South African and Orange Free State Governments, to exercise the customary good offices of a neutral for the care of British interests. In the dischage of this function I am happy to say that abundant opportunity has been afforded to show the impartiality of this Government toward both the combatants.

Lynching of Italians. For the fourth time in the present de-

cade question has arisen with the Govern-

ment of Italy in regard to the lynching of

Italian subjects. The latest of these deplorable events occurred at Tallulah, Louisiana, whereby five unfortunates of Italian origin were taken from jail and hanged. The authorities of the State and a representative of the Italian Embassy having separately investigated the occurrence, with discrepant results, particularly as to the alleged citizenship of the victims, and it not appearing that the State had been able to discover and punish the violators of the law, an independent investigation has been set on foot, through the agency of the Department of State, and is still in progress. The result will enable the Executive to treat the question with the Government of Italy in a spirit of fairness and justice. A satisfactory solution will doubtless be

reached. The recurrence of these distressing mantfestations of blind mob fury directed at dependents or natives of a foreign country suggests that the contingency has arisen for action by Congress in the direction of conferring upon the Federal courts jurisdiction in this class of international cases where the ultimate responsibility of the Federal Government may be involved. The suggestion is not new. In his Annual Message of December 9, 1891, my predecessor, President Harrison, said:

"It would, I believe, be entirely compe tent for Congress to make offenses against the treaty rights of foreigners domiciled in the United States cognizable in the Federal courts. This has not, however, been done, and the Federal officers and courts have no power in such cases to intervene either for the protection of a foreign citizen or for the punishment of his slayers. It seems to me to follow, in this state of the law, that the officers of the State charged with police and judicial powers in such cases must, in the consideration of international questions growing out of such incidents, be regarded in such sense as Federal agents as to make this Government answerable for their acts in cases where it would be answerable if the United States had used its constitutional power to define and punish crimes against treaty rights."

A bill to provide for the punishment of violations of treaty rights of aliens was introduced in the Senate March 1, 1892, and reported favorably March 30. Having doubtless in view the language of that part of Article III of the treaty of February 23, 1871, between the United States and Italy, which stipulates that "The citizens of each of the high contracting parties shall receive, in the States and Territories of the other, most constant protection and security for their persons and property. and shall enjoy in this respect the same rights and privileges as are or shall be granted to the natives, on their submitting themselves to the conditions imposed upon the natives," the bill so introduced and reported provided that any act committed in any State or Territory of the United States in violation of the rights of a citizen or subject of a foreign country secured to such citizen or subject by treaty between the United States and such foreign country and constituting a crime under the laws of the State or Territory shall constitute a like crime against the United States and be cognizable in the Federal courts. No action was taken by Congress in the mat-

I earnestly recommend that the subject be taken up anew and acted upon during the present session. The necessity for ome such provision abundantly appears Precedent for constituting a Federal juris diction in criminal cases where aliens are sufferers is rationally deducible from the existing statute, which gives to the district and circuit courts of the United States jurisdiction of civil suits brought by allens where the amount involved exceeds a certain sum. If such jealous solicitude be shown for alien rights in cases of merely civil and pecuniary import, how much greater should be the public duty to take cognizance of matters affecting the life and the rights of allens under the settled principles of international law no less than under treaty stipulation, in cases of such transcendent wrongdoing as mob murder. especially when experience has shown that local justice is too often helpless to punish the offenders.

After many years of endeavor on the nart of this Government to that end the Italian Government has consented to enter into ne gotiations for a naturalization convention having for one of its objects the regulation of the status of Italians (except those of an age for active military service) who, having been naturalized in the United States, may revisit Italy. It is hoped that with the mutually conciliatory spirit displayed

a successful conclusion will be reached. Commercial Treaty With Japan. The treaty of commerce and navigation between the United States and Japan on November 22, 1894, took effect in accordance with the terms of its XIXth Article on the 17th of July last, simultaneously with the enforcement of like treaties with the other powers, except France, whose convention did not go into operation until August 4th, the United States being, however, granted up to that date all the privileges and rights accorded to French citizens under the old French treaty. By this notable conventional reform Japan's position as a fully independent sovereign power is assured, control being gained of taxation, customs revenues, judicial administration, coasting trade, and all other domestic functions of government, and foreign extra-territorial

rights being renounced. Comprehensive codes of civil and criminal procedure according to western methods, public instruction, patents and copyrights, municipal administration, including jurisdiction over the former foreign settlements. customs tariffs and precedure, public health, and other administrative measures have been proclaimed. The working of the new system has given rise to no material complaints on the part of the American citizens or interests, a circumstance which attests the ripe consideration with which the change has been prepared. Valuable assistance was rendered by the

Japanese authorities to the United States transport ship Morgan City while stranded at Kobe. Permission has been granted to land and pasture army horses at Japanese ports of call on the way to the Philippine Islands. These kindly evidences of good will are highly appreciated.

The Japanese Government has shown a lively interest in the proposition of the Pacific Cable Company to add to its projected cable lines to Hawaii, Guam, and the Philippines a branch connection with the coast of Japan. It would be a gratifying consummation were the utility of the contemplated scheme enhanced by bringing Japan and the United States into direct telegraphic relation.

my special Message of February 10, 1899, concerning the necessity of a cable to Manila, I respectfully invite attention to it. I recommend that, in case the Congress should not take measures to bring about this result by direct action of the government, the Postmaster-General be author-

zed to invite competitive bids for the es-

Without repeating the observations of

give ample bonds to insure the completion of the work within a reasonable time.

Intimney With Mexico.

The year has been marked by constant increase in the intimacy of our relations with Mexico and in the magnitude of mutually advantageous interchanges. This Government has omitted no opportunity to show its strong desire to develop and perpetuate the ties of cordiality new so long

happily unbroken. Following the termination on January 20. 1809, by Mexico of the convention of extradition of December 11, 1861, a new treaty more in accordance with the ascertained needs of both countries was signed February 22, 1899, and exchanged in the City of Mexico on the 22d of April last. Its operation thus far has been effective, and satisfactory. A recent case has served to test the application of its IVth Article, which provides that neither party shall be bound to deliver up its own citizens, but that the executive authority of each shall have the power to deliver them up if in its discretion it be deemed proper to do so. The extradition of Mrs. Mattie Rich,

itizen of the United States, charged with homicide committed in Mexico, was after nature consideration directed by me in the conviction that the ends of justice would e thereby subserved. Similar action, on appropriate occasion, by the Mexican Excutive will not only tend to accomplish the desire of both Governments that grave crimes go not unpunished, but also to repress lawlessness along the border of the two countries. The new treaty stipulates ommitted exclusively within the territory of the other. This will obviate in future the embarrassing controversies which have heretofore arisen through Mexico's assertion of a claim to try and punish an American citizen for an offense committed within the jurisdiction of the United States.

The International Water Boundary Commission, organized by the convention of March 1, 1889, for the adjustment of questions affecting the Rio Grande frontier, has not yet completed its labors. A further extension of its term for one year, until December 24, 1899, was effected by a convention signed December 2, 1898, and exchanged and proclaimed in February last.

An invitation extended to the President of Mexico to visit Chicago in October, on the occasion of laying the corner stone of the United States Government building in that bity, was cordially accepted by him. with the necessary consent of the Mexican Congress, but the illness of a member of his family prevented his attendance. The Minister of Foreign Relations, however, came as the personal representative of President Diaz, and in that high character was duly honored.

Claims growing out of the selzure of American sealing vessels in Bering Sea have been under discussion with the Government of Russia for several years, with the recent happy result of an agreement to submit them to the decision of a single arbitration. By this act Russia affords proof of her adherence to the beneficent principle of arbitration which her plenipotentiaries conspicuously favored at The Hague Disarmament Conference when it was advocated by the representatives of the United States.

A suggestion for a permanent exposition of our products and manufactures in Russia, although not yet fully shaped, has been so cordially welcomed by the Imperia' Government that it may not inaptly take a fit ting place in whatever legislation the Congress may adopt looking to enlargement of our commercial opportunities abroad.

The Samoan Islands.

Important events have occurred in the Samoan Islands. The election, according to the laws and customs of Samoa, of a successor to the late King, Malietoa Lauepa, developed a contest as to the validity of the result, which issue, by the terms of the general act, was to be decided by the Chief Justice. Upon his rendering a judgment in favor of Malietoa Tanu, the rival Intervention of American and British war ships became imperative to restore order. at the cost of sanguinary encounters. In this emergency a joint commission of representatives of the United States, Germany, and Great Britain was sent to Samoa to investigate the situation and provide a temporary remedy. By its active efforts a peaceful solution was reached for the time being, the kingship being abolished and a provisional government established. Recommendations unanimously made by the commission for a permanent adjustment of the Samoan question were taken under consideration by the three powers narties to the General Act. But the more they were examined the more evident it became that a radical change was necessary

in the relations of the powers to Samoa. The inconveniences and possible perils of the tripartite scheme of supervision and control in the Samoan group by powers having little interest in common in that quarter beyond commercial rivalry had been once more emphasized by the recent events. The suggested remedy of the Joint Commission, like the scheme it aimed to replace amounted to what has been styled a triminium, being the exercise of the functions of sovereignty by an unanimous agree-ment of three powers. The situation had become far more intricate and embarrassing from every point of view than it was when my predecessor, in 1894, summed up its perplexities and condemned the particl

pation in it of the United States.

The arrangement under which Samoa was administered had proved impracticable and nacceptable to all the powers concerned. To withdraw from the agreement and aban-don the Islands to Germany and Great Britain would not be compatible with our in-terests in the archipelago. To relinquish our rights in the harbor of Pago Pago, the best anchorage in the Pacific, the occu-pancy of which had been leased to the United States in 1878 by the first foreign treaty ever concluded by Samoa, was not o be thought of either as regards the needs to be thought of either as regards the needs of our Navy or the interests of our growing commerce with the East. We could not have considered any proposition for the ab-rogation of the tripartite control which did not confirm us in all our rights and safeguard all our national interests in the

Our views commended themselves to the other powers. A satisfactory arrangement was concluded between the Governments of Germany and of England, by virtue of which England retired from Samoa in view of compensations in other directions, and both powers renounced in favor of the United States all their rights and claims over and in respect to that portion of the group lying to the east of the one hundred and seventy-first degree of west longitude, embracing the Islands of Tutulla, Olosenga and Manua. I transmit to the Senate, for its constitutional action thereon, convention, which besides the provisions above mentioned also guarantees us the same privileges and conditions in respect to commerce and commercial vessels in all of the islands of Samoa as those possessed by

Germany.
Claims have been preferred by white residents of Samoa on account of injuries al-leged to have been suffered through the acts of the treaty Governments in putting down the late disturbances. A convention has been made between the three powers for the investigation and settlement of these claims by a neutral arbitrator, to which the attention of the Senate will be invited.

Free Cuba Must Be a Reality.

My Annual Message of last year was necessarily devoted in great part to a consideration of the Spanish, war and of the results it wrought and the conditions it imposed for the future. I am gratified to announce that the treaty of peace has restored friendly relations between the two powers. Effect has been given to its most important provisions. The evacuation of Porto Rico having already been accomplished on the 18th of October, 1898, nothing remained necessary there but to continue the provisional military control of the island until Congress should enact a suitable government for the ceded territory. Of the character and scope of the measures to that end I shall treat in another part of this Message.

The withdrawal of the authority of Spain from the island of the method of Spain tablishment of a cable; the company making the best responsible bid to be awarded

ment of some found the relinquished terri-tory held by us in trust for the inhabitants, meintaining, under the direction of the Executive, such government and control the productive conditions of peace a order which prevailed for the greater par of the preceding three decades, and built up that tranquil development of the do mestic state whereby alone can be real ized the high purpose, as preclaimed in the joint resolution adopted by Congress of the 19th of Anal 1858, by the 1st high purposes. the 19th of April, 1898, by which the United States disclaimed any disposition or inten-tion to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or centrel over Cuba, except for the pacificagovernment and control of the island to its resolution is of the highest honorable ob-

ligation and must be sacredly kept.

I believe that substantial progress has been made is this direction. All the administrative measures adopted in Cuba have aimed to fit it for a regenerated exstence by enforcing the supremacy of law nd justice; by placing wherever practica-le the machinery of administration in the bands of the inhabitants; by instituting needed sanitary reforms, by spreading education; by fostering industry and trade; by inculcating public morality, and, in sbort, by taking every rational step to aid the Cuban people to attain to that plane of self-conscious respect and self-reliant unit; which fits an enlightened community for self-government within its own sphere while enabling it to fulfill all outward obligations.

This nation has assumed before the world a grave responsibility for the future good government of Cuba. We have ac-

cepted a trust the fulfillment of which calls for the sternest integrity of purpose and the exercise of the highest wisdom. The that neither Government shall assume few Cuba yet to arise from the ashes of the past must needs be bound to us by the committed exclusively within the territory of singular intimacy and strength if its en-during welfare is to be assured. Whether those ties shall be organic or conventional, the destinies of Cuba are in some rightful form and manner irrevocably linked with our own, but how and how far is for the future to determine in the ripeness of events. Whatever be the outcome, we must see to it that free Cuba be a reality. not a name, a perfect entity, not a hasty experiment bearing within itself the elements of failure. Our mission, to accomany loosely framed commonwealth to facthe vicissitudes which too often attend weaker states whose natural wealth and abundant resources are offset by the incongruities of their political organization and the recurring occasions for internal rival-ries to sap their strength and dissipate their energies. The greatest blessing which can come to Cuba is the restoration of her agricultural and industrial prosperity, which will give employment to idle and re-establish the pursuits of peace. This is her chief and immediate need. On the 19th of August last an order was made for the taking of the census in the

island, to be completed on the 30th November. By the treaty of peace : Spanish people on the Island have until April 11, 1200, to elect whether they will remain citizens of Spain or become citizens of Cuba. Until then it can not be definitely ascertained who shall be entitled ticipate in the formation of the government of Cuba. By that time the result of the census will have been tabulated and we shall proceed to provide for elections which will commit the municipal governments of the island to the officers elected The experience thus as quired will prove of great value in the f government for the island. and so long as we exercise control ver the Island the products of Cuba should have a market in the United States on a good terms and with as favorable rates o duty as are given to the West India is-lands under treatles of reciprocity which

shall be made.

For the relief of the distressed in the island of Cuba the War Department has issued supplies to destitute persons through the officers of the Army, which have amounted to 5,463,000 rations, at a cost of \$1,417,554,07

\$1,417,554.07.
To promote the disarrament of the Cuban volunteer army, and in the interest of public prace and the welfare of the people, the sum of \$75 was paid to each Cuban soldier borne upon the authentic rolls, on condition that he should deposit his arms with the authorities designated by the United States. United States. The sum thus disbursed aggregated \$2,547,750, which was paid from

January 5, 1869, for that purpose, Out of the Cuban is and revenues during Out of the Cuban issuad revenues during the six rionihs enoing June 50, 1855, \$1.712.014.20 was expended for samitation, \$250,881.70 for charities and hospitals, and \$88,944.03 for aid to the destitute.

Following the exchange of ratifications of the treaty of peace the two Governments accredited ministers to each other. Span an eminent dipionatist, previously sta-tioned in Mexico, while the United States transferred to Madrid Hon, Beilamy Stover, its minister at brossels. This was followed by the respective appointment of consuls, thereby fully resuming the relations interrupted by the war. In addition to its con-sular representation in the United States the Spanish Government has appointed con-suls for Cuba, who have been provisionally recognized during the military administration of the affairs of that island.

Jud.ciai intercourse between the courts of Cuba and Porto R.co and of Spain and been established, as provided by the treaty of peace. The Cuban political prisoners if panish penal stations have been and ar being released and returned to their homes in accordance with Article VI of the treaty Negotiations are about to be had for fining the conventional relations be we the two countries, which fell into abey-ance by reason of the war. I trust that these will include a favorable arrangemen for commercial reciprocity under the terms of sections 3 and 4 of the current tariff act. In these, as in all matters of inter-national concern, no effort will be spared to respond to the good disposition of Spain, and to cultivate in all practicable ways the intimacy which should prevail between two nations whose past history has so often and in to many ways been marked by sin-cere facindship and by community of

interests. I would recommend appropriate legisla-tion in order to carry into execution Article VII of the Treaty of Peace with Spain, by which the United States assured the pay ment of certain c aims for indemnity of its citizens against Spain.

Unsatisfactory Condition in Turkey, The United States minister to Turkey continues, under instructions, to press for a money payment in satisfaction of the just claims for injuries suffered by American citizens in the disorders of several years past and for wrongs done to them by the Ottoman authorities Some of these claims are of many years' standing. This Government is hopeful of a general agreement in

this regard.

In the Turkish Empire the situation of our citizens remains unsatisfactory. Our efforts during nearly forty years to bring about a convention of naturalization seem o be on the brink of final failure three the announced policy of the Ottoman Porte to refuse recognition of the alien status of native Turkish subjects naturalized abroad since 1867. Our statutes do not allow this Government to admit any distinction be tween the treatment of native and natural ized Americans abroad, so that ceaseless controversy arises in cases where owing in the eye of International law a dual allegiance are prevented from entering Turkey or are expelled after entrance. Our law in this regard contrasts with that of the European States. The British act, for instance, does not claim effect for the naturalization of an alien in the event of his eturn to his native country.

change recognized by the law of that country or stipulated by treaty between it and

the naturalizing state.

The arbitrary treatment, in some instances, of American productions in Tur-key has attracted attention of late, notably in regard to our flour. Large shipments by he recently opened direct steamship line o Turkish ports have been denied entrance on the score that, although of standard composition and unquestioned purity, the dour was pernicious to health because of deficient "elasticity," as indicated by antiquated and untrustworthy tests. Upon due protest by the American minister, and it appearing that the act was a virtual discrimination against our product, the shipments in question were admitted. In these as in all instances, wherever occurring when American products may be subjected in a foreign country, upon specious pre-texts, to discrimination compared with the like products of another country, this Government will use its earnest efforts to se cure fair and equal treatment for its citizens and their goods. Falling this, it will not hesitate to apply whatever corrective may be provided by the statutes.

Venezuelan Arbitration.

the contract; the successful company to 1st of January, so that the full re-establish-